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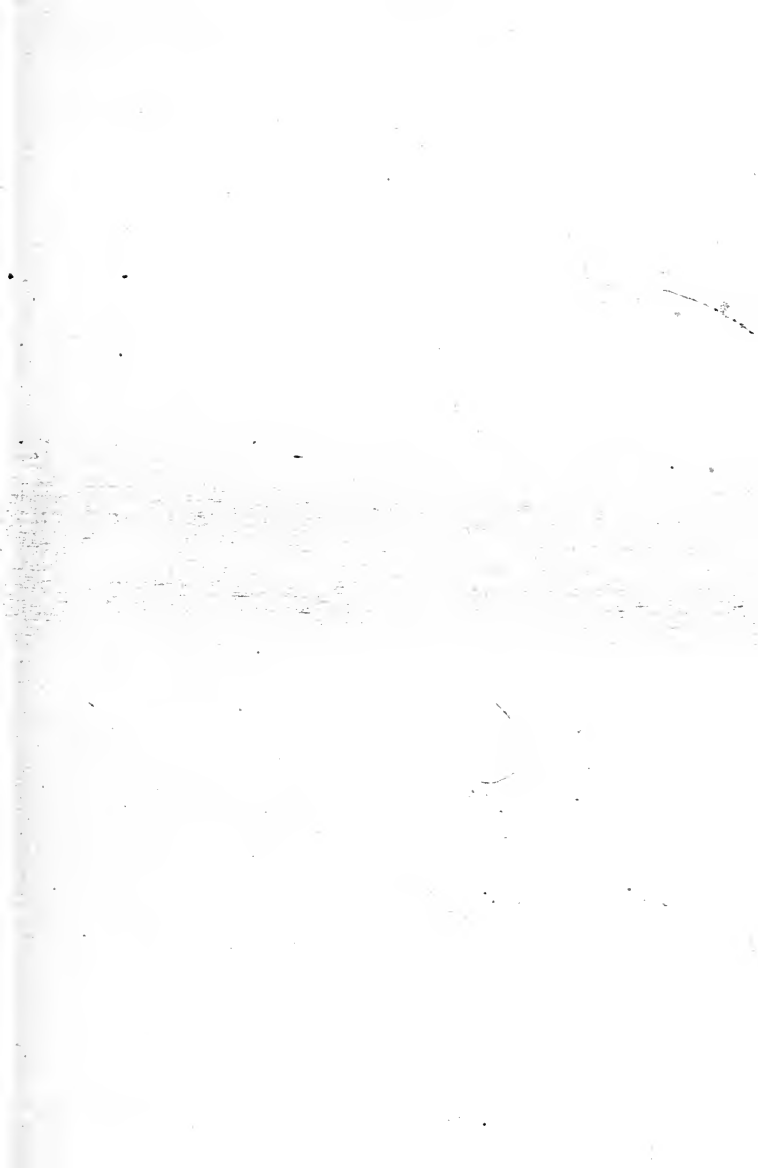


MANIKIN

NUMBER ONE



POEMS OF JANET LEWIS



MANIKIN

NUMBER ONE

MONROE WHEELER BONN GERMANY
KAISERPLATZ, 11

Bancroft

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1923

JANET
LEWIS
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THE
INDIANS
IN THE
WOODS

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MAIN

THE INDIANS IN THE WOODS

Ah, the woods, the woods
Where small things
Are distinct and visible,

The berry plant,
The berry leaf, remembered
Line for line.

There are three figures
Walking in the woods
Whose feet press down
Needle and leaf and vine.

THE WIFE OF MANIBOZHIO SINGS.

He comes and goes;
There is no rest
While he is here
Or gone.

I cannot say
That his feet have pressed
The leaves
He was standing on.

He comes and goes
And the maple leaves
Lie still
Under the sun.

THE GRANDMOTHER REMEMBERS

Ah, the cold, cold days
When we lived
On wintergreen berries and nuts,
On caraway seeds.

The deer went over the grass
With wet hooves
To the river to drink.

Their shadows passed
Our tent.

NIGHTFALL AMONG POPLARS

As light grew horizontal,
I, among braken,
Felt the cold ripples
Among braken stems.

The quick dry spider
Ran across my hand.

A SONG FOR FOLLOWING GULLS

Over the sand hill
I follow these;
They and their crying
Change like the seas.

I cannot tell you
What they have cried,
But the place of their going
Is empty and wide.

I follow creeping,
Tender and slow,
Watching the sand drift
Change as I go.

THE OLD WOMAN ALONE

The Grandmother picks her way
Among the stones, the stones.
She passes deer.

Upon brown flanks
The balsam needles fall.

Ah, stranger than a deer
Caught in the open sunlight,
The old woman.

MANIBUSH AND THE GRANDMOTHER

With keen ankles
Dividing weed and weed
He shakes the dry seed
From the grass.

Fox feet, and five
Bare leather paws
And small sharp claws
Accompany him.

From the blue spruce
Tree where the wind blows
I watch the flashing
In the grass.

HE GOES AWAY AGAIN

In thorny juniper
The wind is cold,

In thorny juniper.

Shadows
Of stones grow white with evening.

The deer, the deer
Among the withered asters.

The spider,
Making tight his web.

LIKE SUMMER HAY

Like summer hay it falls
Over the marshes, over
The cranberry flats,
Places where
the wild deer lay.

Now the deer leave tracks
Down the pine hollow; petals
Laid two by two, brown
Against the snow.

ANISHINABEG IN THE CRANBERRY SWAMP

Autumn bows
The headed grass
With frost
And narrowed stem. Hoarfrost
Has rutted the swamp.

Their baskets fill
With berries green as water,
Their fingers cut
With searching the hard grass.

Boats gather
At the point of land,
Deep hulls
Beneath the swing
Of wide red sails.

They beg old quilts
And blankets,
Wake at morning
Frost from hip to shoulder
Like morning mist.

ONE SITS IN THE WOODS

Gradual, continual approach
Of some one through the woods,
But no one comes.

The thin flame
Shoots up
Among grasses.

Violets, color of stone,
Minute and scarce
Where the great ants climb.

THE EXODUS AT EVENING

Light came sideways
Into the hole;
The badger's children
Creeping sideways out.

Down they went
To bushes in the valley,
Treading silky yarrow.

THE VILLAGE

Among grey cones
Odour of sweet grass
And warm bodies;

Burnt fish, about
The lukewarm stones,
And ash.

And the night, like ice,
Cuts color and odor
Like flowers under a sickle.

These bodies, so still
In the deluge
Of fine air.

THE ROCKY ISLANDS

There are wolves
Cracking dry bones
On ledges
Among sweet gale bushes.

And at night
I climb to meet them
Over the light
Still flakes of rock.

THE THRESHING WIND

Cold and clear weather,
And the wind harries us
With a continual
Beating of the grass
For some fine seed.

The wild rice
Draws out its pointed leaves
With a perpetual flickering
As of wings
Or minnows turning.

These hold
The hard brown husk
That Manibush beat out,
Drawing the sharp green leaves
Against his shoulder.



The price of M A N I K I N
is a quarter — or a shilling.
Six consecutive num-
bers for a paper
dollar — or five
shillings.

Monroe Wheeler,
Kaiserplatz, 11, Bonn, Germany.



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